



Arapaho Fire

Fire Information Update

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Contact: Public Information Office 1-307-298-0556

Saturday, July 7, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. MST Fire Status Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Total Personnel
Arapaho	97,443*	65%	879

*Increase in acreage primarily from burnout operations that occurred over the last two days and more accurate mapping generated by hand-held GPS units.

News & Events for the Arapaho Fire:

- Due to the discontinuation of the night shift, Arapaho Fire updates will be provided once daily in the morning.
- A long term assessment team, which includes local and county resources, was put together to develop a strategy for the W flank of the fire. The rugged terrain and heavy fuel loads in this area have made it difficult for firefighters to access and suppress this portion of the fire.
- Firefighting crews responded to two new starts yesterday east of the Esterbrook area. The cause was due to lightning in an area that received minimal rainfall. The new starts were .2 acres and 3 acres in size and were contained early this morning.
- Structure protection crews continue to work with the county assessment teams and the Red Cross to assess property damage.

Arapaho Fire: Rehabilitation assessments will begin today to identify locations where suppression rehabilitation is needed. In an effort to reduce erosion, efforts will focus on rehabilitating handlines, dozer lines and grader lines, particularly in steep terrain, to minimize impacts to streams. Rehabilitation crews are also looking to repair any suppression related property damage, including, repairing stock fences and cattle guards that were filled to allow heavy equipment access.

Fire crews on the W side of the fire will be assessing for direct attack opportunities. The structure protection group is coordinating with county resources to assist with public re-entry. Crews on the eastern portion of the fire will be conducting mop up activities and continue to hold and improve lines.

With cooler weather from the past day and continuing today, fire activity will remain moderate. In areas with light fuels, fire growth has minimized due to recent rainfall and high humidities. Areas with heavier fuels continue to hold a significant amount of heat. This will cause the fire to become more active when weather patterns become warmer and drier.

Road Closures:

- Horseshoe Creek Road at Albany and Platte County Line
- Harris Park Road closed at Esterbrook Campground and Fish Creek Road
- Garrett Road closed at Palmer Canyon Road and Fetterman Road (County Rd 61)
- Esterbrook Road closed at Fetterman Road and Braae Road

Open Roads:

- Fletcher Park Road to the intersection with Fish Creek Road
- Van Ortwick Hill Road open at Fletcher Park Road
- Cottonwood Park Road open at Palmer Canyon Road
- Fletcher Park Road from the Fish Creek Road intersection to Cottonwood Park Road
- Fish Creek Road from Harris Park to the Fletcher Park Road intersection.

Lifted Evacuations: The Oregon Trail & Laramie Peak Ranch subdivisions and Cottonwood Park area.

Evacuations in Place: Evacuations remain in place for, Friend Park and Harris Park.

Closures: All Forest Service lands, recreation sites, roads and trails east of Esterbrook Road. Trails include Laramie Peak Trail (#602); North Laramie River Trail (#625); Friend Park Trail (#609); Harris Park Trail (#616); Roaring Fork Trail (#623); and Laramie Peak Trailhead, North Laramie Trailhead; recreation sites closed include Esterbrook Campground and Friend Park Campground.

Restrictions: For current fire restrictions, visit the Wyoming interagency fire restrictions website at http://www.wy.blm.gov/wy_fire_restrictions/

Donations: Thank you for supporting the firefighters with donations. Please do not deliver any donations to the fire camp on Fish Creek Road. To make donations, call 1-307-331-8660

FIRE FACTS:

Arapaho Fire: Started: June 27, 2012 **Cause:** Lightning **Location:** 28 miles NW of Wheatland, WY. **Resources:** A total of 879 personnel assigned to the fire, including 6 hotshot crews, 13 hand crews, 3 assigned helicopters, 2 fixed wing aircraft, 67 engines, 4 dozers and 13 water tenders.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Weakened snags, downdraft winds from thunderstorms, stumpholes, wet and dangerous road conditions, slippery footing, lightning.

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Invasive species such as dalmation toadflax, cheatgrass and zebra mussel transported on equipment from other locations.

WEATHER: A flash flood watch is in place through Sunday. Over the region the airmass remains fairly moist with light flow over the region. Therefore, locally heavy rains are a concern.

Today, increasing clouds with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Temperatures will be ranging between 70 to 75 degrees. E to NE winds 5 to 15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.

The outlook for tonight is partly cloudy skies with scattered early evening showers and isolated thunderstorms. Temperatures will be ranging between 55 to 60 degrees with good RH recovery 60 to 80% and a chance of wetting rain 20%.

Outlook for Sunday is becoming mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms by the afternoon. Temperatures will be in the mid 70s with a minimum RH of 25 to 35%. Winds E to SE 5 to 15 mph with afternoon gusts up to 20 mph and 20% chance of wetting rain.

TODAY'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR: Although precipitation and a wetter atmosphere have moderated fire conditions, there is still a potential for fire spread. Daytime drying will lead to potential fire spread in light flashy fuels, especially in breezy conditions. Heavy fuels will continue to burn but growth will remain minimal. In locations that received precipitation yesterday there will be low potential for fire growth. Initial attack response will likely continue from lightning received on Thursday night.

COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS: Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, the Wyoming State Forestry Division, Platte County, Albany County and Converse County; the Rawlins Field Office of the High Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management.

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